

Draft Environmental Assessment for Construction of Facilities and Associated Infrastructure at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, Ritidian Unit



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INTRODUCTION

The United States (U.S.) Marine Corps is proposing to construct new U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) facilities and associated infrastructure at the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge. The new facilities are required to replace existing facilities that fall within a Marine Corps live fire training range surface danger zone (SDZ) that overlays a portion of the Refuge.

The Marine Corps prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations for NEPA, and Marine Corps Order 5090.2. The Draft EA advances NEPA's purpose to inform decision-makers and the public about the construction of DOI facilities and the potential environmental effects of the proposed action. The Marine Corps will consider comments received during the public comment period prior to rendering a decision on the proposed action. Required consultations and coordination with regulatory agencies will be completed prior to the Final EA.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

What is the Marine Corps Proposing?

- Construct replacement DOI facilities, associated infrastructure, and road improvements outside the SDZ (Phase 1).
- DOI relocation to the new facilities (Phase 2).
- Remove existing DOI facilities and prepare the site for potential habitat restoration (Phase 3).
- Duration: Approximately 36 months (2026 to 2029).

What Alternatives Does the Draft EA Evaluate?

- The Draft EA analyzes two action alternatives and the No-Action alternative.
 - o Alternative 1: single story facilities encompassing approximately 7.5 acres.
 - o Alternative 2: consolidates some DOI functions into a 2-story facility (approximately 4.5 acres).
 - o All other components of the proposed action (road improvements, utility infrastructure, and removal of existing facilities) are the same for both alternatives.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Public participation helps the Marine Corps make informed decisions. Public input is essential at this stage of the NEPA process to ensure the public's concerns are considered. Written comments must be received or postmarked by September 23, 2024 ChST to be considered in the Final EA.

You may submit your comments by any of the following methods:

- ▶ Submit comments here tonight.
- ▶ Email comments to: NFPAC-Receive@navy.mil.
- ▶ Mail written comments to:
EV21 Project Mgr., Ritidian Unit Facility Construction
EA, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command,
Pacific 258 Makalapa Dr, Ste 100, Joint Base Pearl,
Harbor-Hickam, HI 96860-3134

The Draft EA is available for review and download at the following website: <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/About-Us/National-Environmental-Policy-Act-NEPA-Information>. Printed copies are also available to read at the Dededo Public Library and the Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library.



Scan QR Code
to review and
download the
Draft EA.



Proposed Action